

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MARCH 27, 2006

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2005–06 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 2433

Introduced by Assembly Member Negrete McLeod
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chavez, DeVore, and Lieber)

February 23, 2006

An act relating to military and veterans, and making an appropriation therefor.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 2433, as amended, Negrete McLeod. National Guard Family Resource Center Pilot Program Act.

Existing law establishes the Military Department comprised of the Office of the Adjutant General, the California National Guard, the State Military Reserve, the California Cadet Corps, and the Naval Militia. The department has specified powers and duties relating to military and veterans.

This bill would appropriate from the General Fund to the department the sum of \$100,000 for the 2006–07 fiscal year for a pilot program to provide upgraded armory facilities and access at specified battalion headquarters armory locations, as provided.

This bill would require the department to make a report to the Legislature regarding the program and makes specified legislative findings and declarations in connection thereto.

Vote: $\frac{2}{3}$. Appropriation: yes. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the
2 National Guard Family Resource Center Pilot Program Act.

3 SEC. 2. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
4 following:

5 (a) The California National Guard serves essential public
6 safety purposes and routinely supports state and local authorities
7 in protecting the lives and property of the people of the state
8 during periods of natural disaster and civil disturbance, and
9 provides homeland security to the people of this state, as well as
10 serving the nation as a reserve component of the Army and the
11 Air Force.

12 (b) The California National Guard is a federally recognized
13 military organization that is routinely asked by the President to
14 perform dangerous duties in armed conflicts, contingency
15 operations, mobilizations, war, and other emergencies of national
16 significance.

17 (c) The California National Guard has a proud tradition of
18 federal military service where thousands of Californians have
19 answered the call to duty and served proudly, and thousands
20 more continue to serve their nation at home and abroad.

21 (d) The families of the members of the California National
22 Guard endure extraordinary hardships when the members are
23 called to duty by the President.

24 (e) The spouses and family members of deployed members of
25 the California National Guard also serve their state and their
26 nation, often without adequate recognition of their own sacrifices
27 and contributions to the public good.

28 (f) The spouses and family members of the California National
29 Guard could further contribute to the public good and
30 accomplishing the mission of deployed members of the
31 California National Guard by improved communications with
32 their deployed spouses and family members.

33 SEC. 3. (a) There is hereby appropriated from the General
34 Fund to the Military Department, the sum of one hundred
35 thousand dollars (\$100,000) for the 2006–07 fiscal year to
36 support the creation of National Guard Family Resource Centers.
37 These funds shall be provided to the Military Department to
38 provide upgraded armory facilities and access at the battalion

1 headquarters armory locations in Azusa, Burbank, Fresno,
2 Inglewood, Modesto, San Bernardino, San Diego, ~~and Santa Ana~~
3 *Santa Ana, and Walnut Creek.*

4 (b) The Legislature understands that the cost of each center
5 shall be approximately thirty-one thousand two hundred
6 seventy-nine dollars (\$31,279) for a total of two hundred ~~fifty~~
7 ~~thousand two hundred thirty-two dollars (\$250,232)~~ *eighty-one*
8 *thousand five hundred eleven dollars (\$281,511)*. It is the intent
9 of the Legislature that these funds shall be used for a pilot
10 program to develop this concept for every battalion headquarters
11 armory in the California Army National Guard and shall be used
12 in conjunction with privately raised funds donated through
13 qualified 501(c)(19) Veterans Organizations or 501(c)(3)
14 Charitable Organizations to enable the completion of Family
15 Resources Centers at all eight battalion headquarters in the pilot
16 program. It is the intent of the Legislature that the Military
17 Department, in concert with private organizations such as the
18 National Guard Association of California, shall be actively
19 involved in raising the additional funds from private donations.

20 (c) The funds provided to the Military Department under this
21 act shall be used only for the construction and operating costs of
22 the reception and information area, Internet cafe, administrative
23 support area, conference area, children's play area, families
24 helping families closet, and general construction costs.

25 (d) The Military Department is encouraged to leverage
26 existing resources, such as the Distance Learning Centers,
27 National Guard Enhanced Classrooms, GUARDNET, NIPR, and
28 other appropriate means to communicate with deployed National
29 Guard members, as long as that use does not conflict with federal
30 law or military regulations. In order to maximize scarce
31 California resources, the Family Resource Centers should utilize
32 federal networks to the maximum extent allowed by federal law
33 and federal military regulations.

34 (e) No funds appropriated by this act shall be used for pay,
35 allowances, or other related payroll costs for the Military
36 Department, troop command, division, or brigade headquarters,
37 or armory personnel.

38 (f) The Family Resource Centers shall be staffed by volunteers
39 and existing Military Department or California National Guard
40 personnel, to include armory repair and maintenance personnel

1 and full-time unit staffing. Notwithstanding federal law and
2 federal military regulations, the Adjutant General shall be the
3 approving authority to allow volunteers access to armories for the
4 purpose of operating Family Resource Centers.

5 (g) It is the intent of the Legislature to allow state employees
6 to support the construction and operation of these Family
7 Resource Centers consistent with their existing job requirements.
8 Furthermore, the Legislature recognizes the importance of these
9 centers in promoting the accomplishment of the Military
10 Department mission and improving recruiting and retention in
11 the California National Guard. Therefore, the Legislature
12 recognizes that the Adjutant General is authorized under existing
13 provisions to use funds otherwise made available to the
14 department to support the creation and operation of Family
15 Resource Centers in accordance with his or her strategic plan for
16 the department.

17 (h) When the availability of Family Resource Centers is
18 limited, priority of use shall go to family members of deployed
19 soldiers and airmen of the California National Guard. However,
20 on a space-available basis, these centers shall also be made
21 available for use by family members of deployed federal
22 reservists and active component military personnel.

23 (i) Within 365 days of the appropriation by this act, the
24 Military Department shall provide a report to the Legislature
25 indicating the status of the ~~eight~~ *nine* pilot program Family
26 Resource Centers and the number of military families it has
27 served. Included in the report shall be the amount of funds raised
28 from private donors. It is the intent of the Legislature to
29 encourage private donations to this program and for the Military
30 Department to make the creation and operation of the pilot
31 program and future Family Resource Centers a public-private
32 endeavor.